Bible Bible & Daily Living

On Jephthah and Sampson

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
LEAPING WITHOUT LOOKING
Lesson for July 3, 1983
Bible Study Passages: Judges 11:7-10, 29-35

Introduction

This week's and next week's lessons focus upon two "rascals" known as Jephthah and Sampson. Not all of Israel's judges can be considered as top political candidates for that office. We will learn from these two men despite their negative qualities. We will also learn how their negative qualities may have prevented them from becoming great leaders in Israel's history.

Jephthah and Sampson were impulsive sorts of fellows who had a tendency to leap before they looked. They did not use logic or respond to a crisis with rational thinking. They followed their initial feeling response when offended or threatened.

If we always leap before we look we can end up in some pretty difficult situations. You've heard the phrase, "Some people don't thing off the end of their noses." That basically means that sometimes we don't think ahead to allow for error or to be sure of what we are doing.

There is something positive about leaping before we look, namely, that sometimes a person will spend all their time looking and never leaping. In other words, we cannot always see ahead into the dark or the future to make a decision. If we wait till all the facts are in, we may never leap.

A Self-Styled Soldier (Judges 11:7-10

Jephthah was in some ways a man without a family. Because of his illegitimacy he was treated as an outsider. He became a sort of renegade and formed a band of rebel fighters. He was no good to anyone until they needed him to do something. The elders of Gilead called upon Jephthah to be their military leader against the warriors of Ammon. Jephthah agreed to be their leader in battle upon the condition he would be appointed head of the Gilead.

Despite his impulsiveness, Jephthah was a devoted follower of the Lord. His religious beliefs were tainted by old pagan ideas, however. Prior to the battle, Jephthah uttered his prayerful concerns to the Lord.

An Unfortunate Decision Judges 11:29-35

Before forcing the people of Ammon in battle, Jephthah made a vow or promise to God. He vowed to sacrifice his only daughter if God would deliver the people of Ammon into his hands. His intentions were good but his head wasn't in gear. The idea that he would sacrifice his daughter to acknowledge the victory in battle points to his attachment to pagan practices of that era. We may conclude that Jephthah did not fully understand the God he sought to serve.

To this day people do strange things in the name of religion and belief in God. Following God's will does not necessarily imply a blind leap into nothingness. God surely expects us to use our gifts of thought and reason.

God is oftentimes "blamed" for a lot of events that happen in life. We humans tend to need a reason behind pain into our life. We are not comfortable with the idea that things randomly happen over which God nor us have any control.

To define the will of God oftentimes puts us in a bind. When a loved one dies of a heart attack or in an automobile collision, we say it was God's will. If they survive the heart attack or the collision, we say it was God's will. How do we resolve such a conflict? Maybe we can't. Perhaps the answer lies in believing that God wants what is best for us, not what is bad. God does not inflict pain upon us to teach us lessons. We may learn from life - tragedies, but we cannot always conclude that God is trying to teach us something through pain. But in pain we may feel his compassionate presence.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Ill. (WLYP)

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Lions Club officers installed

KYLE N. GARRETT, JR., Zone Chairman from Amherst installed officers for the Appomattox Lions Club for the coming year at last Thursday's meeting of the club. Officers are as follows: James C. Sefter, President; Marvin J. House, Jr. 1st. Vice President; Daniel H. Turner, II 2nd Vice President; W. Lloyd Vaughan, 3rd Vice President; R. Murrell Ferguson, Secretary and Treasurer; George M. Morris, Jr. Tail Twister; Jon B. Montgomery, Lion Tamer; Norman R. Clouser and Walter Edward Hancock, Jr. Two Year Directors; John Fedison and Lloyd G. Walton, One Year Directors.

Obituaries

Mrs. Ebbie Strattan Brown

SPOUT SPRING - Mary Elizabath (Ebbie) Strattan Brown, 65, of Route 1, Spout Spring, died at midnight June 23, 1983, in Lynchburg General Hospital. She was the wife of Russell Walker Brown.

Born in Meyersdale, Pa., she was a daughter of the late Sanford Richard Weinstein and Sallie Sophia Thompson Stratton.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted at 1 p.m. Saturday in Whitten Park Avenue Chapel by the Rev. Ron Nickell. Burial was in Spout Spring Baptist Church cemetery.

Whiten Park Avenue Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Mary Brightwell Ligon

PAMPLIN - Mary Brightwell Ligon, formerly of Pamplin, died June 23, 1983, in Dallas, Tex. She was the widow of Willard Dupuy Ligon.

She was born in Pamplin, a daughter of the late W. R. and Lizzie B. Brightwell.

She is survived by two sons, Samuel B. Ligon, Dallas, and Jerry W. Ligon, Barrington, Ill.; her stepmother, Mrs. Sadie W. Brightwell, and a half sister, Billie Star Brightwell, both of Pamplin.

Graveside funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday in Pamplin Community Cemetery.

Robinson Funeral Home, Appomattox, was in charge of arrangements.

Irvin C. Moses

Irvin Coleman Robertson Moses, 87, of Route 3, died June 25, 1983, at Virginia Baptist Hospital. She was twice married, her first husband was the late Therious P. Robertson, then to the late Leonard M. Moses.

Born in Appomattox County, she was a daughter of the late Charles Spurgeon Coleman and Emma Ferguson Coleman. She was a member and former Sunday school teacher at New Hope Baptist Church.

She is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Leonard (Emma) Garrett and Mrs. Spencer (Irvin) Garrett, both of Appomattox, and Mrs. George (Florence) Kruer, Arlington; two stepchildren, North Robertson and Mrs. Thomas (Mary) Garrett, both of Appomattox; a sister, Mrs. North (Ruth) Robertson, Appomattox; six grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at 11 a.m. at New Hope Baptist Church by the Rev. Bob Williams. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Robinson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

C. C. [Jimmie] Pearce

Cloye Coleman "Jimmie" Pearce, 80, retired Richmond Guano Company salesman, died in Farmville on Saturday, June 4, 1983.

He was born in Wake County, N.C., August 4, 1902, a son of the late William Mallie Pearce and Rhoda Medlin Pearce.

Mr. Pearce was a member of Farmville Baptist Church and a 56-year member of the Farmville Masonic Lodge.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Olive Lewis Pearce, of Farmville; one daughter, Mrs. Jean P. Shell, of Blackstone; four sisters, Mrs. Ilina Williams and Mrs. Thelma Carroll, both of Zebulon, N.C., Mrs. Mary Alford, of Middlesex, N.C., and Mrs. Reba Griffin, of Rochester, N.Y.; three brothers, Milton E. and Sherman D. Pearce, both of Zebulon, N.C. and Johnnie C. Pearce, of Cascade; and three grandsons.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, June 7, at 2 p.m. at the Westview Cemetery, with Dr. C. Steven Teague and the Rev. Hugh C. Paschall officiating.

Doyne-Burger Funeral Home, of Farmville, was in charge of arrangements.

Mary Taylor Weakley

Mary Taylor Weakley, 82, of 554 Elmwood Ave., Lynchburg, died at 1:05 p.m. Friday, June 24, 1983, at Virginia Baptist Hospital. Her husband was the late W.A. Weakley Sr.

Born in Dearborn County, Ind., she was a daughter of the late Thomas L. Taylor and Adda Phillips Taylor. She was a retired registered nurse, and a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Appomattox.

She is survived by two sons, Joseph Shearer Weakley of Midlothian and Wilfred A. Weakley Jr. of Appomattox; four daughters, Mrs. Doreas W. Whitlow of Stevensville, Md., Mrs. Faye W. Harris of Suffolk and Mrs. Judith Eileen Wood and Mrs. Dale W. Kidd, both of Lynchburg; a brother, George L. Taylor of Guilford, Ind.; two sisters, Mrs. Blanche Davis of Dillsboro, Ind., and Mrs. Mable Wolfung of Greencastle, Ind.; 15 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 1 p.m. Monday at Trinity United Methodist Church, Appomattox, by the Revs. David Camden and Steven Bird. Burial was in Spring Hill Cemetery.

Whitten Park Avenue Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

CCC reunion set

Editor:

I am a former enrolled of Company 1370 of the old Civilian Conservation Corps, "CCC" that was activated at Langely Field Air Base on July 10, 1933. I am, with the help of a dozen or so others of that old unit getting up a 50th anniversary reunion. It is to be held at Pearisburg, the seat of government for Giles County, Va.

For this three day affair, September 16-17-18 we are including former personnel of CCC Co. 2386 because 1370 was the parent organization of that unit. My CCC days were many years ago, but I remember well that there were a lot of fellows from that area. Maybe if you can find time and space to print this some old timer may be interested and drop us a line at 426 Grove Avenue, Petersburg, Va. 23803. Phone 804-733-5514. Thank you kindly for any help.

Sincerely,
Ray Daniels

Barbara Irba visits AARP

Barbra Irba of the Lynchburg Health Department was on hand at the American Association of Retired Persons meeting to check the blood pressures of all those present.

The meeting was held Tuesday, June 19 in the friendship hall of the Pamplin Charge United Methodist Church.

Letters

Reduced speed limit sought

Editor's note: The following is an open letter addressed to the Virginia State Police, with a copy submitted to the Times-Virginian for publication. The letter was signed by 130 residents of Appomattox County.

We, the undersigned, would like to see something done about the speed limit on Route 26 between Appomattox and Bent Creek.

We believe the speed limit should be lowered and more tickets given out for speeders. We feel if tickets were given to violaters and the word got around, the heavy feet would lift off the pedal some.

We also believe if some signs were out along the way, alerting all traffic, that there may be someone moving farm machinery along the highway and to exercise caution, this may help to prevent such tragedies as the one recently in the death of Jack Martin.

Appomattox County is a farm community and machinery has to be moved frequently on public roads. We really would like to see some action taken to make this road safer for all who travel it -- including our farmers who may be moving "Slow Machinery" from one field to another or back home.

Criminal communists

Editor:

President Reagan understands the criminal nature of Communism. He is doing his best to prevent all of Central America from becoming rules by communist totalitarian dictatorships like those in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Lithuania, Lativia, Estonia and many other countries. Informed and concerned persons realize that it should become the policy of the United States to eliminate all Soviet bases in Central America. Nevertheless, the noble aspirations and actions of our president to support the legal and democratic government of El Salvador and the anti-Communist freedom fighters in Nicaragua are opposed by radicals and self-styled liberals in Congress.

They and many so-called moderates are attacking the president's proposed necessary defense budget in spite of the fact that it would amount to only about 7 percent of the gross national product.

It should be pointed out that the disereditied Carter administration turned over the Panama Canal to a leftist Panamanian dictatorship, also halted military aid to Guatemala and undermined the pro-American regime in Nicaragua.

El Salvador and Nicaragua are vital to American interests. The communist conquest and use of Central America would pose a direct and very grave strategic danger and cause the isolation of the U. S. In addition to this, decent Americans cannot afford to tolerate mass murders in Central America. Nevertheless, all the necessary measures of President Reagan concerning Central American and the U.S. defense budget are opposed by our liberal news media.

Those who sabotage the wise and necessary measures of our president give aid and comfort to our enemies. There are too many irresponsible and incompetent members of Congress. Patriotic and concerned voters will retire them in the 1984 election.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Alexander V. Berkis

Thanks for cooperation

Editor:

We would like to thank all the businesses and individuals for their help and cooperation with the tractor pull we sponsored this past weekend.

It's so good to live in a community where cooperation is a way of life.

The Appomattox Young Farmers
Bobby Waddell

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Photo by Jack Henley
Mrs. John Edward Blakely

Nadine Bugg marries

The marriage of Miss Nadine Faye Bugg to Mr. John Edward Blakely was an event of Saturday, June 25, 1983, at two o'clock in the afternoon at Liberty Baptist Church.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Herndon Bugg of Appomattox, and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Kestner, also of Appomattox. The groom is the son of Rev. and Mrs. David Dewey Blakely of Richmond, formerly of Altavista, and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Roy W. Wood of Virginia Beach.

Officiating at the double ring candlelight ceremony before an altar of palms and flowers were Rev. David Blakely, father of the groom and Rev. Edward Temple, Chaplaincy Director of Lynchburg General Hospital.

A program of nuptial music was presented by Mrs. J. Franklin Vaughan, organist; Mr. Joe Vaughan, soloist, and Mrs. Charlene Lawson, soloist. Selections included "The Wedding Song", "If", "Wither Thou Goest", and "The Wedding Prayer" was sang as the final prayer.

The bride, escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents, wore a traditional, formal gown of white organza, featuring a victorian neckline trimmed in chantilly lace. The fitted bodice featured an illusion yoke, semi-empire waistline, and was covered with seed pearls and chantilly lace, the long sheer sleeves of lace ended in a cuff at the wrist. A lace ruffle adorned each shoulder and a lace apron overlay was gathered from the waist front and extended to the back beneath a white lace tuxedo bow. Chantilly lace formed a peak in the front and flowed in a wide border around the edge of the chapel length train. Her chapel length veil of illusion, gathered at the crown, was also edged in chantilly lace. She carried the white, lace covered prayer book first carried by her mother in her own wedding which was adorned with white lillies, stephanotis, and lily-of the-valley. The tips of the ribbon streamers were touched with lily-of-the-valley.

Mrs. Laura Woods, cousin of the bride, was matron of honor wore a formal gown of pastel pink organza featuring a sweetheart neckline and ruffles which flowed from the front of the neckline to form a "V" shape in the back. The ruffle ended just above a tuxedo bow at the back waistline, and then flowed in ruffles to the floor and around the front of the dress. She carried an old-fashioned lace fan covered with pink roses, stephanotis, and lily-of-the-valley. She wore a pink picture hat adorned with ribbon and pink roses.

Bridesmaids were Miss Garlene Gaines of Appomattox, Mrs. Susan Blakely Smith of Wilson, North Carolina, sister of the groom, Mrs. Becky Blakely Smith of Altavista, also sister of the groom and Miss April Lynn Gowin of Dillwyn. Their dresses were identical to that of the honor attendant and they carried lace fans fashioned as the honor attendant's.

Mr. Robbie Blakely of Altavista, brother of the groom, was best man. Ushers were Mr. Hugh Bugg of Appomattox, brother of the bride, Mr. Stephen Smith of Wilson, North Carolina, brother-in-law of the groom, Mr. James Harman of Altavista, brother-in-law of the groom, and Mr. Tracy Chernault of Appomattox, cousin of the bride. They wore burgundy tuxedos with pink ruffle shirts and burgundy bow ties. The groom wore a white tuxedo with a white ruffled shirt, white tails, and a white bow tie. Their boutonnaires were fashioned of pastel pink roses for the ushers and a single white rose for the groom.

Miss Jessica Leigh Guill of Appomattox, cousin of the bride and Miss Danielle Smith of Wilson, NC, niece of the groom, served as flower girls. They wore formal pastel pink gowns designed similar to that of the honor attendants. They wore roses and lily-of-the-valley in their hair and carried lace baskets from which they dropped rose petals.

Master Shane Woods of Appomattox, cousin of the bride, was ring bearer. He wore a formal burgundy tuxedo identical to that of the groomsmen and carried a lace, heart-shaped pillow.

Honored guests s included Mrs. Mary Kestner of Appomattox, maternal grandmother of the bride, and Mrs. Roy Wood, of Virginia Beach, maternal grandmother of the groom.

Mrs. Nanny Mae Davidson of Spout Spring was mistress of ceremonies and also served as mistress of ceremonies for the wedding of the bride's parents 24 years ago. Mrs. Frances Gilliam of Concord and Mrs. Connie Hall of Appomattox presided at the guest registers while Miss Nancy Cole and Miss Debbie Richardson of Pamplin, served as program attendants. Mrs. Evelyn Chernault, aunt of the bride, was wedding photographer and Ms. Clarine Mays and Frances Guill, also aunts of the bride, assisted with the ceremony and reception.

For her daughter's wedding, Mrs. Bugg chose a formal mint green gown which featured a jacket also edged in chantilly lace. She wore a silk corsage of pink roses. Mrs. Blakely, mother of the groom, wore a formal mauve gown which also featured a smocked jacket. She wore a corsage of roses identical to that of the bride's mother.

Immediately following the ceremony, the bride's parents entertained with a reception in the fellowship hall of the church. Mrs. Dollie Childress of Darlington Heights, Mrs. Mildred Richardson of Pamplin, and Mr. Michael Bartley of Lynchburg were in charge of the reception. They were assisted by Mrs. Bobbie Jean Mullins, Mrs. Etta O'Brien, Mrs. Beulah Jamerson, Mrs. Mary Alice Gowin, and Mrs. Edna Snell.

The bride is a graduate of Appomattox County High School, attended Central Virginia Community College and is employed as executive secretary to the general manager at The Lynchburg Hilton.

The groom is a graduate of Altavista High School and recently graduated from Averett College in Danville with a B.S. Degree in Education. He is employed in the operating suite at Virginia Baptist Hospital.

For her going away outfit, the bride wore a white linen suit accented with a red ruffle blouse and red accessories. She wore a corsage of white orchids.

Following a wedding trip to the Clearwater Beach Hilton Resort in Clearwater, Florida, the couple will reside in Lynchburg.

Reunion set

The Henry Turnes family reunion will be held on Sun., July 10 at W.O.W. building.

Relatives and friends of the family are welcome. Dinner will be served at 12:30. Come and bring picnic lunch.

Couple honored

Rev. and Mrs. David Dewey Blakely entertained on Friday, June 24, 1983 with a rehearsal dinner in honor of their son, John Edward and his fiancee, Nadine Faye Bugg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bugg of Appomattox.

The dinner was held at 7 o'clock at John Mosby Inn in Appomattox and attended by relatives, friends, and members of the wedding party.

Hamlett, Garrett marry

The marriage of Teresa Gayle Hamlett to David Thomas Garrett Jr. took place on Saturday afternoon, June 25, 1983, at two o'clock in Evergreen Baptist Church in Evergreen.

The Rev. Edmond Terry, pastor of the church, officiated at the double ring, candlelight ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Herbert Hamlett of Evergreen and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David T. Garrett, Sr. also of Evergreen.

The bride, escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents, wore a formal gown made of hand-clipped chantilly lace with pearls accenting the jewel neckline. The long sleeves tapered to wedding points. The bouffant skirt, accented center front and back with crystals and pearls, swept into a circular chapel train. Her fingertip veil was attached to an upswept bridal hat, accented with lace, flower motifs, and ribbon. She carried a silk bouquet of ivory and pink roses and baby's breath.

Miss Stephanie Elder of Red House was maid of honor. She wore a floor length princess style gown of lavender satin. She carried three longstemmed ivory roses with baby's breath and greens and accented with multicolored streamers.

Bridesmaids were Miss Rita Garrett of Evergreen, sister of the groom; Mrs. Brenda Harlow of Richmond, sister of the groom; Miss Sheila Shorter of Evergreen and Miss Karen Crews of Nathalie, cousin of the bride. Their dresses were identical to that of the maid of honor but in rainbow pastels. They carried two ivory roses with baby's breath and greens, accented with multicolored streamers.

Mr. David T. Garrett, Sr., father of the groom, was best man. Ushers were Mr. Eddie Pugh of Charlotte Court House, Mr. Timothy Garrett of Evergreen, brother of the groom, Mr. Todd Garrett of Evergreen, brother of the groom, and Mr. Greg Hamlett of Evergreen, brother of the bride. They wore silver grey tuxedos.

Miss Susan Hamilton of Evergreen was flower girl and Master Ben Hamilton was ring bearer.

Master Matthew Garrett and Master Craig Womack were aisle cloth bearers.

Mrs. Hamlett chose for her daughter's wedding a suede rose gown of lustrous polyester knit and organza. She wore a cymbidium orchid corsage.

Mrs. Garrett, mother of the groom, wore a lavender gown of polyester accented with a lace yoke and lace cuffs. She also wore a cymbidium orchid corsage.

A program of nuptial music was presented by Mrs. Cecil Kay Harvey of Evergreen and Miss Maureen O'Donnell of Concord, soloist.

Mrs. Evelyn Garrett and Mrs. Betty Hodges were mistresses of ceremonies. Attending the guest book was Nancy Wooldridge. Programs were given to guests by Robin Paulette.

Following the ceremony the bride's parents entertained with a reception in the social hall of the church with friends and relatives of the bride and groom in charge.

The bride is a 1983 graduate of Appomattox County High School. She is employed by Amelia Dress Company.

The bridegroom is a 1980 graduate of Appomattox County High School. He is employed by J. E. Jamerson & Sons Construction Co.

After a honeymoon in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the couple will reside in Appomattox.

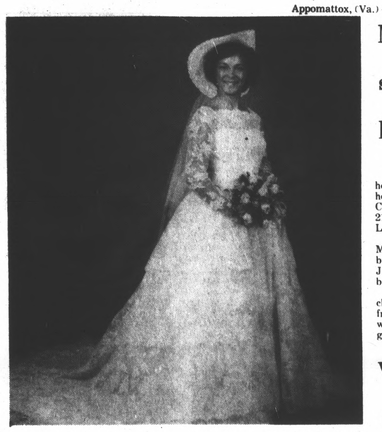

Photo by Allen Austin
Mrs. David Thomas Garrett

Hamlett, Garrett marry

Jamerson honored

Miss Tammy Lynn Jamerson, bride-elect, was honored with a bridal luncheon on Saturday, June 25, 1983, at the home of Mrs. Esley Ferguson on Second Street, Appomattox.

Mrs. Ferguson was hostess and presented Miss Jamerson with a beautiful gift of milkware. The luncheon was attended by Mrs. Nancy Jamerson, mother of the bride; Jo Ann Jamerson, sister of the bride; Mrs. Virgie Isenhour, grandmother of the bride; and Mrs. Nancy Beale, mother of the groom.

The marriage of Tammy Lynn Jamerson to James William (Dickie) Beale, Jr. will take place October 22, 1983, at 2 p.m., New Hope Baptist Church, Appomattox, Virginia.

MR. AND MRS. M. G. MARTIN, JR. of Appomattox were honored on Sunday, June 5, 1983, when their daughters were hostesses for a reception celebrating their parents 35th wedding anniversary. The event was held at the Falling River Country Club between the hours of two and five o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. Martin were married on June 4, 1948. They are the parents of three daughters.

Moore serves as hostess

Mrs. Jeanette C. Moore was hostess for a Tupperware Shower in her home on James River Acres, Concord, Virginia, on Tuesday, June 21, 1983 in honor of Miss Teresa Lynn Elliott, of Appomattox.

Those in attendance included Mrs. Betty J. Elliott, mother of the bride-to-be, also Mrs. Irma P. Johnson, grandmother of the bride-to-be, of Appomattox.

Teresa had the pleasure of chosing many nice and useful gifts from the Tupperware catalog, which were purchased for her by her guests.

Wedding location changed

The wedding of Sharon Juanita Daniels and Stephen Rodger Lamb formerly announced to take place at Bible Baptist Church in Appomattox, Va., due to illness, will take place at Phillips Chapel of Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, TN on July 30, 1983 at 2 p.m. Reception following in fellowship hall.

Friends and relatives are cordially invited to attend.

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